

F-4-49
Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead
Myersville vicinity
Private

Ca. 1850-1930

The Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead is an originally agricultural grouping centered on a circa 1850 log dwelling of two stories with a frame smokehouse, a frame privy, and a stone and frame springhouse as domestic outbuildings and an agricultural group containing a frame and stone bank barn, a wagon shed/corn crib, and two groups of frame outbuildings including a garage, wagon shed, and blacksmith shop, and a chicken house, feed shed, and hog barn. All the outbuildings except the 1850's springhouse are of the period 1875-1920. The layout of the farmstead in tight rows along the edge of the road illustrates the difficulties of mountain farming in the last quarter of the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th century. The types of buildings suggest the livelihood of the occupants, which was subsistence farming, sale of surplus farm produce, and farm-related industry such as cooperage and smithing. The exposed logs of the dwelling house, which was restored in the mid-1980's, show the evidence of the german siding which covered the exterior from about the 1870's until 1985. The farmstead also contains parts of a prehistoric and historic period archeological site which has yielded rhyolite points and scatter related to a rhyolite quarry used from about 4000-2000 B.C. to about A.D. 900-1600.

F-4-49
Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead
Myersville
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes
Agriculture
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:
Domestic/single dwelling/residence
Domestic/secondary structure/smokehouse
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn
Agriculture/subsistence/storage/granary
Agriculture/subsistence/agricultural outbuilding

Know Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead (preferred)

and/or common Shelter Rock Farm

2. Location

street & number 4234 Crow Rock Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Myersville ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Spencer O. Geasey (see also Sect. 7 for additional owner)

street & number 4302 Crow Rock Road telephone no.:

city, town Myersville state and zip code Md. 21773

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1190

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 873

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-49

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 10

The Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead is an originally agricultural complex now in residential use centered on an exposed log, two-story dwelling built about 1850 with a frame smokehouse and a frame privy dating from about the last quarter of the 19th century, a stone and frame springhouse of about 1850-1870, and an agricultural grouping containing a frame and stone bank barn, a frame wagon shed/corn crib, a garage, a vehicle shed, a blacksmith shop, a chicken house and feed shed, and a hog barn, all of frame construction and dating from the last quarter of the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th century. The farmstead is located on both sides of Crow Rock Road about 1/4 mile west of Highland School Road near Myersville, Frederick County, Maryland. The dwelling, smokehouse, and privy are located on the north side of the road and the rest of the outbuildings are arranged in a line along the south side of the road just north of a small stream. The springhouse is located west of the rest of the farmstead on the south bank of the stream.

The dwelling faces south and has a three-bay first story with the entrance in the east bay. The second story has two bays. The windows are 6/6 on the first story, with mostly original glass. The entrance has a plain surround with a paneled door with a glazed upper section. The second story windows are 6/3, reflecting the low ceiling height of the interior. Across the south elevation is a rebuilt frame porch over an exposed stone foundation which extends toward the east. A former two-story addition built about 1920 formerly stood on the east end of the 1st section; it was demolished about 1985, leaving the concrete floor in place with the rebuilt porch wrapped around to the east elevation. The gable roof is corrugated metal and interior chimneys are located at the east and west ends. The east and west elevations each have single bays, with a window in the west end and a doorway in the east end, which formerly led into the addition. The east gable above the porch roof is covered with german siding. The north elevation has two bays on each story. The exposed log structure has been restored and plastered between the logs. The logs on all elevations have vertical channels cut into the surface which held studs to which german siding was attached, a feature which was probably added during the last quarter of the 19th century or early 20th century and removed during the 1980's rehabilitation.

The interior plan features two rooms on both stories, with a stairway in the northeast corner. The interior walls are plastered and the east room has a tongue-and-groove wainscot below a simple molded chair rail. The floor in this room is covered with linoleum. The brick fireplace has been rebuilt in an approximation of the original and has a wood stove in the opening. Between the opening and the stairway is an enclosed storage closet with whitewash on the interior walls. The west room or parlor has random width oak floors, molded baseboards, and the same molded chair rail as in the east room. The mantelpiece is a simple, vernacular style loosely based on Greek Revival designs with sections of reeding at the narrow shelf. The second floor contains two rooms and a small hall at the top of the stairway. The ceiling has been dropped somewhat from the original height to allow for insulation. The walls are also plastered with baseboards and chair rails. The

(Continued on separate sheet)

8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-49

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Ca. 1850	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D		
and/or		
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G		
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local		

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead is a good example of a small mountain farmstead of the 1850's through the early 20th century, containing a log dwelling with little alteration in plan and major details, a contemporary bank barn and several frame outbuildings which illustrate the self-contained existence of the period, as well as the topographical factors of mountain farming. The linear arrangement of the outbuildings in a narrow strip of land between the stream and the road indicates the need to maximize the area of cultivation within the limited acreage of the property. The farmstead also has archeological potential for information from the Late Archaic (4000-2000 B.C.) through the Late Woodland (A.D. 900-1600) periods, covering parts of Site 18FR648, a 10-acre area which has yielded rhyolite points and flakes related to a rhyolite quarry in the vicinity of Shelter Rock, an outcrop on the edge of Crow Rock Road which is included in the current parcel, but is outside the 5-acre farmstead site.

The farm may have been built by Lewis Ramsburg around 1850, as land records indicate that he had the entire tract, "Health's Abode", resurveyed on June 18, 1851. His name is shown on the Isaac Bond 1858 map, perhaps as the original dwelling on the farm. Ramsburg had another log house, possibly built in the 1860's, which was located just south of the Ramsburg-Gaver house; it was demolished in the 1960's and replaced with the existing dwelling on the neighboring parcel. In about 1870, the farmstead was sold to George D. Gaver. His brother Philip F. Gaver, purchased the property in 1878 and it remained in the Gaver family until 1983. Throughout this period of ownership, the farm remained just over 30 acres in size and the Gavers followed farming as well as related trades including cooperage, which may account for the blacksmith shop's survival. The remaining outbuildings reflect the domestic needs common to all rural properties during the period. The barn was not adapted for dairy operations as were most barns during the 1930's. Mr. Geasey, the current owner, stated that the last Gavers to occupy the farm made their living by selling surplus produce in Frederick and other towns. The barn housed horses used in farm operations and a few cows for domestic use, although eggs and butter were sold regularly. Beginning about 1913, Charles Gaver used a truck to transport his produce to market; this was probably the date that the garage was added to the wagon shed-blacksmith shop group among the outbuildings. Land records indicate that a saw mill once was located on the stream and the remains of the dam are still visible, although the date that this structure disappeared is unknown. It was certainly demolished by 1900.

(Continued on separate sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-49

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858.
Geasey, Spencer O. personal interview, November 24, 1992
Land Records of Frederick County
Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873
(Continued on separate sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acresQuadrangle name Myersville, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 5 acres including log house and domestic outbuildings on north side of Crow Rock Road and springhouse and agricultural buildings on south side of road on Tax Map 38, Parcel 18, including bank barn on Parcel 266.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept date March 1992street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958city or town Frederick state Md. 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORIC TRUST
DHCE
COMMUNITY PLACE
MYERSVILLE MD 21032-2023
571-27400

7.1 Description (Continued)

doors are vertical board types with original hardware latches. The log section has never had indoor plumbing, although a water tap and outdoor sink from the demolished addition, which held the kitchen after about 1920, have been retained on the porch. The house is used by Mr. and Mrs. Geasey, the current owners, as a guest house and for occasional educational gatherings by local Scout troops.

Domestic outbuildings:

Smokehouse: The frame smokehouse is located east of the house and has a generally square plan with vertical and composition siding and a corrugated metal gable roof. The door in the west elevation is vertical boards. The structure probably dates from the last quarter of the 19th century.

Privy: The frame privy is located east of the smokehouse. It has a square plan with vertical siding and a corrugated metal shed roof. The door in the west elevation is vertical boards. The privy is also a late 19th century structure and is in deteriorated condition.

Springhouse: The stone and frame springhouse is located on the south side of the stream and Crow Rock Road about 200 feet southwest of the house. It has a stone lower section and a gable roof supported by frame gables with german siding. An overhanging eave extends on the north side of the building. The spring is located east of the structure and flows through an interior trough in the lower level. The springhouse may be an 1850's building in its original form, with the frame upper section a later addition or remodeling of the original roof.

Hog barn, chicken house, and feed shed: These three frame buildings adjoin each other on the south side of Crow Rock Road southeast of the house. Each has vertical siding with traces of whitewash visible near the eaves. The hog pen has a corrugated metal gable roof and several feeding doors which open in drop sections on the north elevation. These doors are horizontal boards. A second section next to the hog barn has a similar arrangement in a narrower facade. The chicken house has a shed corrugated metal roof with windows on the south elevation. The siding is board and battens. At the east end of the adjoining structures is a frame feed shed with board and batten siding and a vertical board door on the north elevation. This group, like the other agricultural outbuildings, dates from the last quarter of the 19th century.

Blacksmith shop, wagon shed, and garage: The second group of adjoining structures has a blacksmith shop on the west end. It has vertical board siding and a corrugated metal gable roof. The vertical board door is on the north elevation. Inside is a stone forge and the base of the anvil with scattered metal debris. The major tools were sold at auction about 1980. The shop has no outside chimney and smoke apparently escaped through the vertical boards. The adjoining wagon shed has battens over the board siding and a single doorway on the north elevation. The last building in the adjoining group is a small garage probably added during the early 20th century. It has a single swing door on the north elevation. The wagon shed and the garage both have corrugated metal gable roofs.

7.2 Description (Continued)

Wagon shed/corn crib: The wagon shed/corn crib is located immediately east of the second group of three adjoining structures. It has vertical siding and a single corn crib on the south side. The roof is corrugated metal. Its date is probably 1875-1900.

Barn: The frame bank barn is located at the east end of the farmstead, and is currently on a separately owned parcel (parcel 266; owner: Henry V. Chase, Jr., 10803A Highland School Rd., Myersville, MD 21773). It has horizontal siding with battens on the stall level facing south, with two glazed windows in the center and vertical board doors at the each end. The exterior of the upper section is vertical and the doors at the top of the ramp on the north elevation are double swing types. The roof is corrugated metal and the west elevation is also covered with corrugated metal.

Demolished outbuildings: The farmstead once had other outbuildings which have been demolished due to extreme deterioration. A log summer kitchen stood near the southwest corner of the dwelling and was demolished about 1985. A frame woodshed was located on the south side of Crow Rock Road directly south of the house and next to the driveway to the property on the south side of the stream. It was damaged by flooding and was removed during the 1980's.

Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead
Frederick County

Survey No. F-4-49

8.1 Significance (Continued)

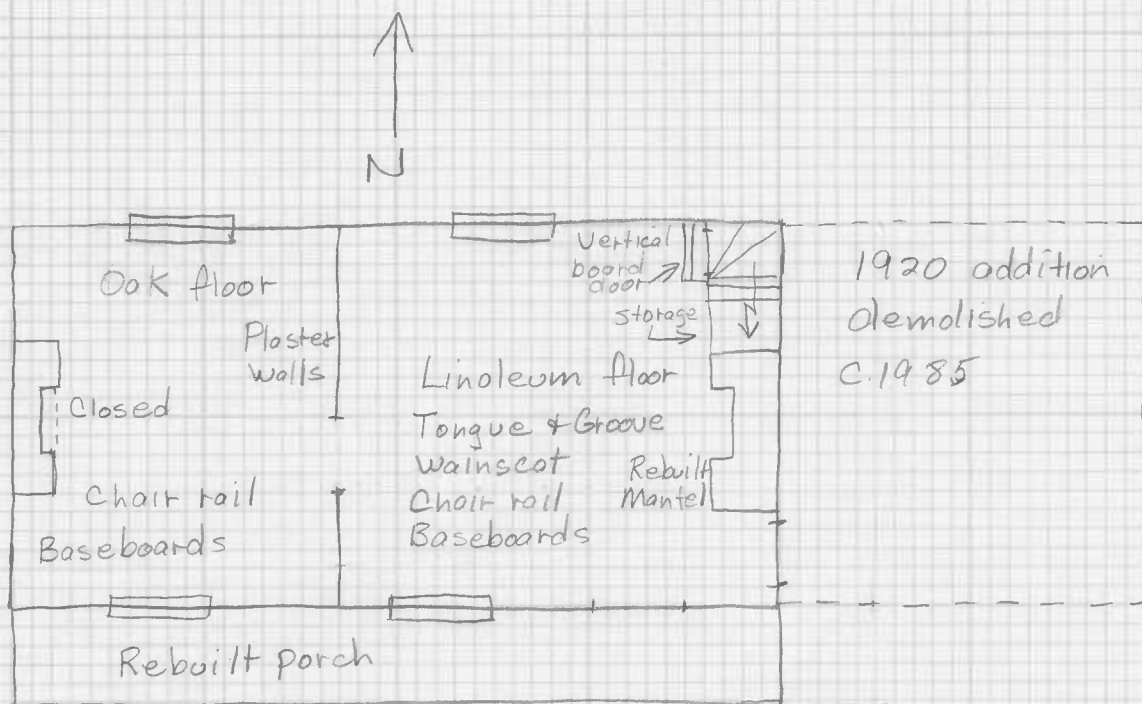
The Frederick County Landmarks Foundation has placed a registry plaque, No. 227, on the log house in recognition of its historic character.

Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead
Frederick County

Survey No. F-4-49

9.1 Bibliography (Continued)

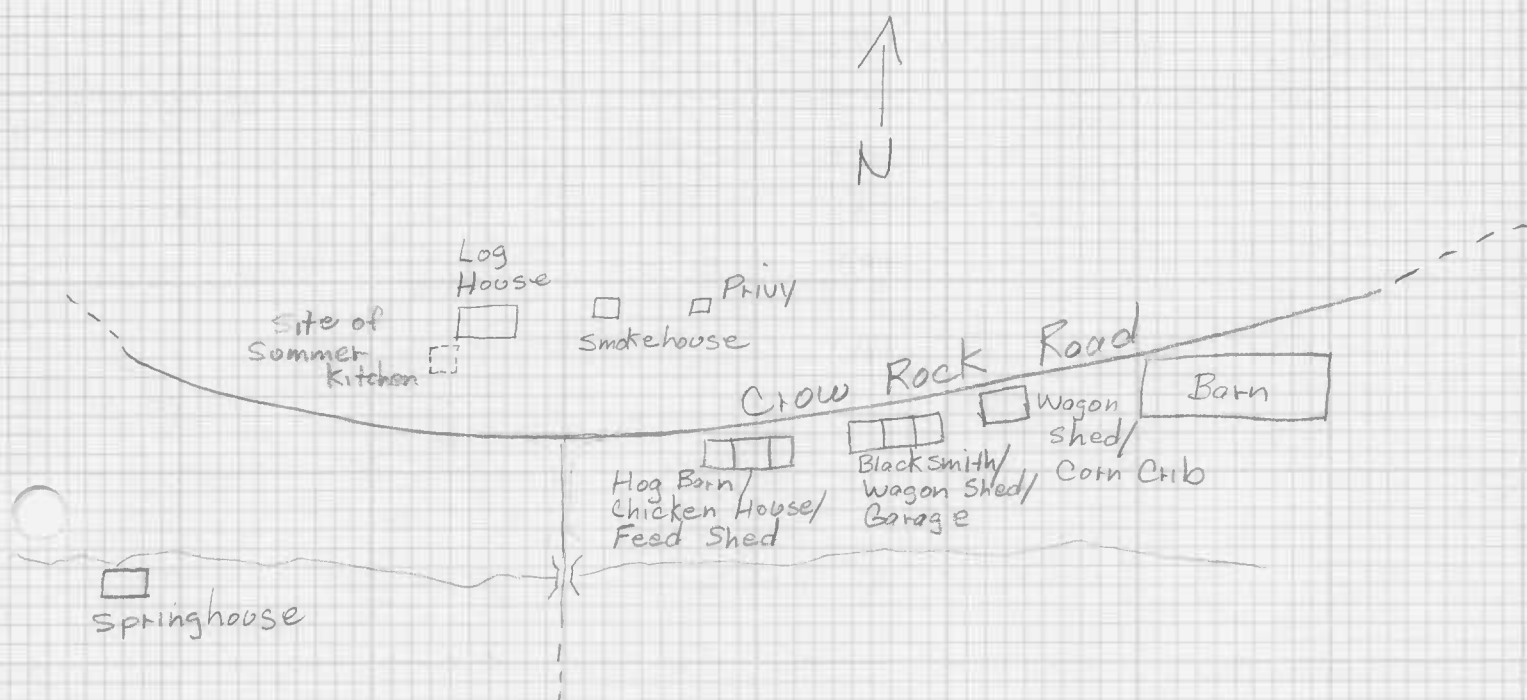
Williams, T.J.C. and Folger McKinsey, History of Frederick County, 1910.
Reprinted Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, p. 1605-1606.



F-4-49
 Ramsburg-Gover Farmstead
 Frederick County

Janet Davis
 March 24, 1992

Not to Scale



F-4-49

Ramsburg-Gover Farmstead
Frederick County

Janet Davis

March 24, 1992

Not to Scale

LIBER/FL 10	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
1190/873 (1440/520) 10 Feb 83	Spencer O. & Nancy O. Heasey	Melvin Schmeering, serv. pers. rep. of estate of Charles R. Gauer, dec. 22 Jan 62 (Natie B. Gauer died 22 May 81) 2nd wife of Charles Gauer	20 01 A.	\$10,000	
324/569 29 Mar 13	Charles R. & Mary M. Gauer	Jerome E. & Cordelia Gauer	"Heath's Abode" mentions "old mill dam" in descr. & 31 1/4 A. "saw mill dam" "D.M. Wolfe's shop"	\$2,500	
HWB 302/514 31 Mar 03	Jerome E. & Cordelia Gauer	Phillip F. Gauer & Ann E. Gauer	"Heath's Abode" 31 1/4 A. mentions "saw mill dam" & "D.M. Wolfe's shop"	\$1,900	
DHH 15/428 9 Apr 1878 (recorded 4 Dec 1902)	Philip F. & Ann E. Gauer (brother of George D. Gauer)	George D. Gauer & Martha E. Gauer	"Heath's Abode" (see) 31 1/4 A. "saw mill dam & D.M. Wolfe's shop" mentioned	\$1,300	
	George D. & Martha E. Gauer	Emanuel Ramsburg, exec. of last will of Nelson Ramsburg, dec.			
DSB 11/518 26 Apr 1867	Nelson Ramsburg	Emanuel & Sarah A. Ramsburg	"Heath's Abode" resurveyed for Lewis Ramsburg on 18 June 1851 31 1/4 A except road to Nelson Ramsburg's dwelling	\$1,250	
BGF 7/538 7 Jun 1862	Nelson Ramsburg & Emanuel Ramsburg	Samuel Cline & Anna M. Cline, et al (heirs of Lewis Ramsburg, dec.)	"Heath's Abode" (see) 20 66 A.	\$2200	

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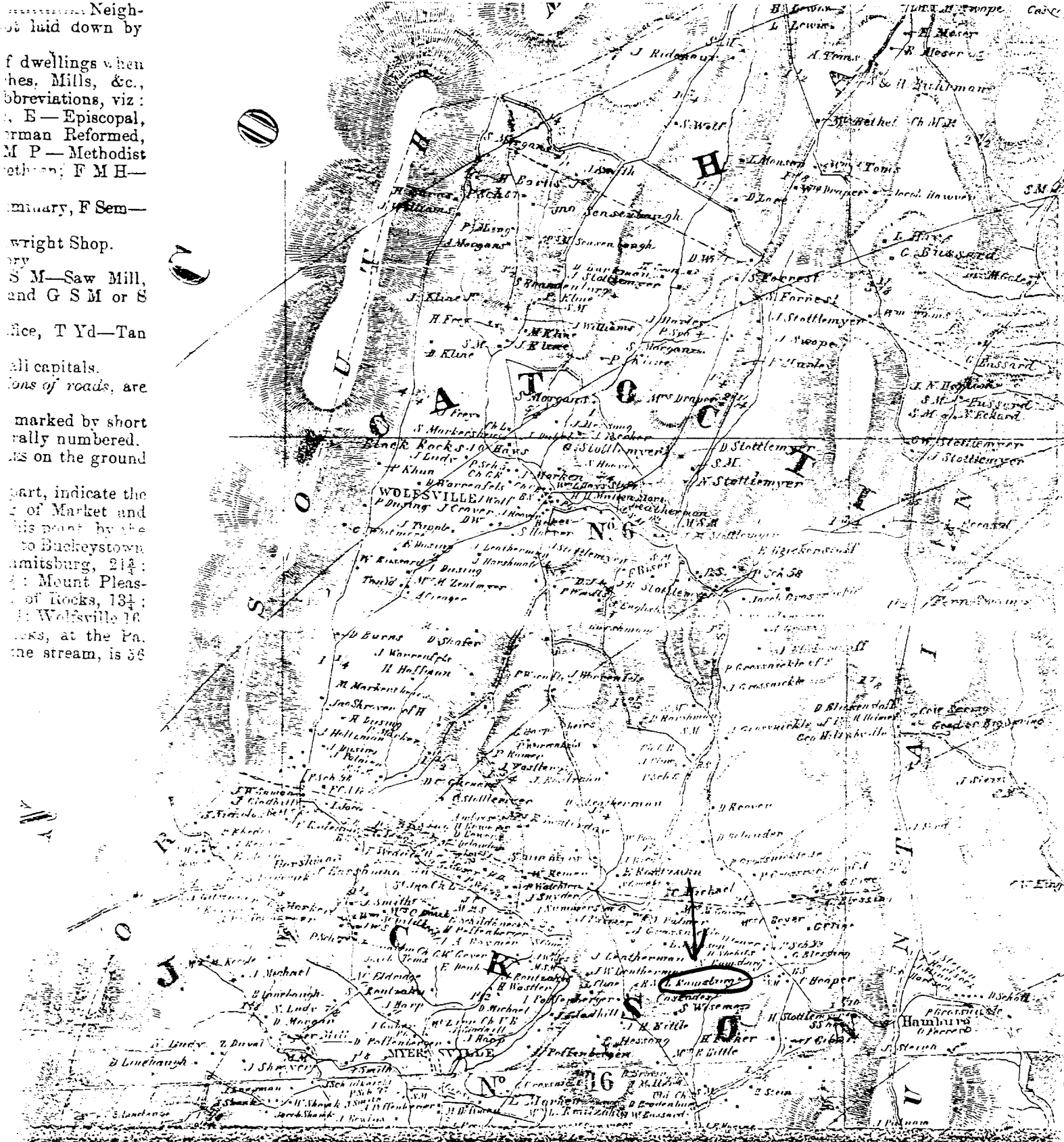
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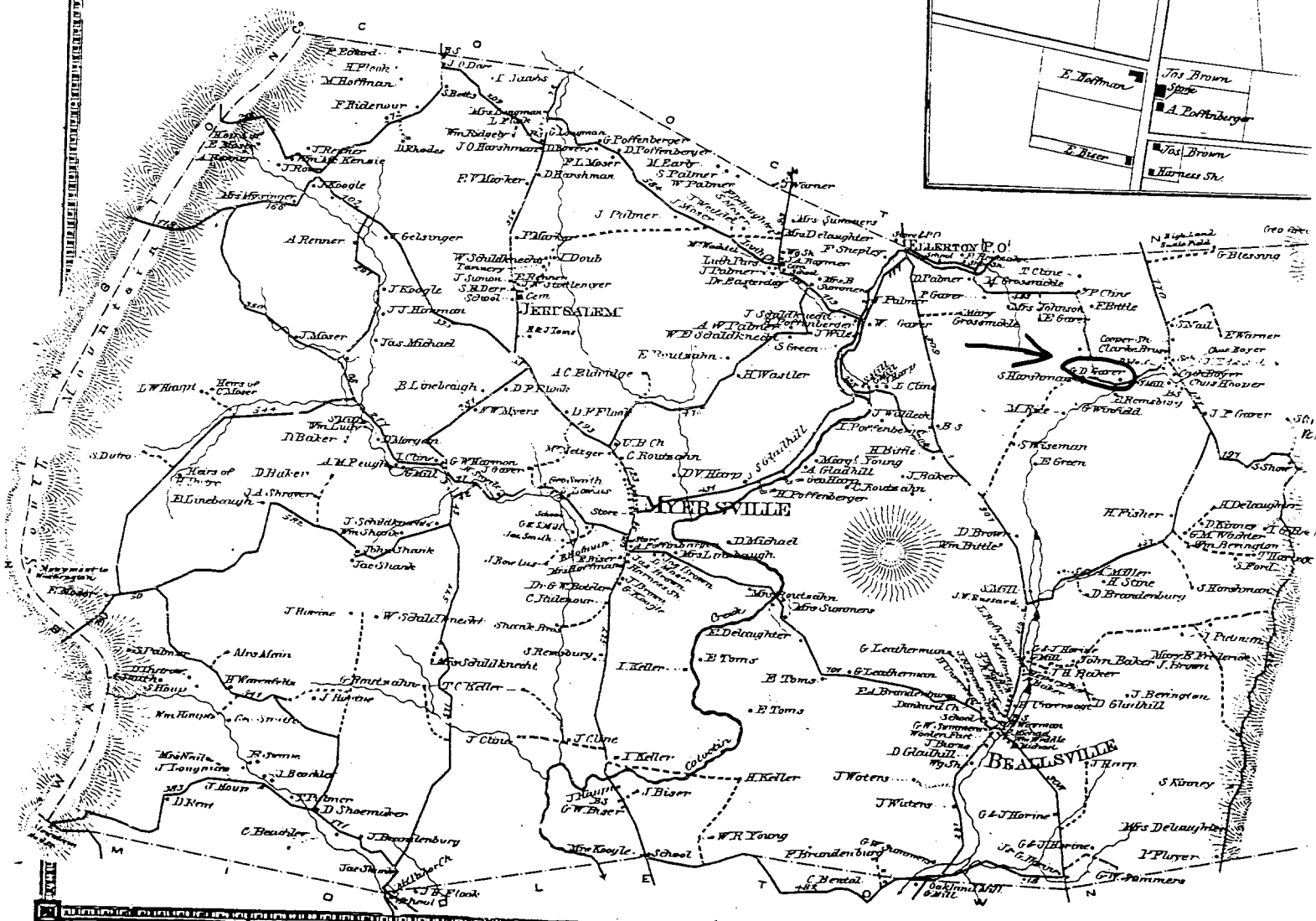
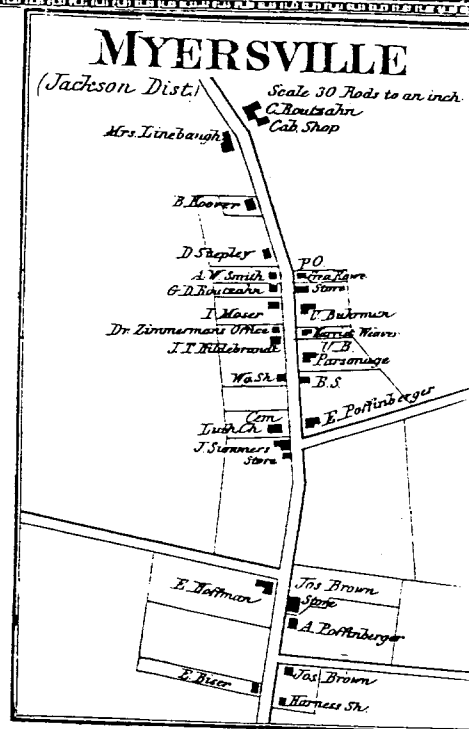
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Mount Pleas-
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Wolfsville 16
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the stream, is 36

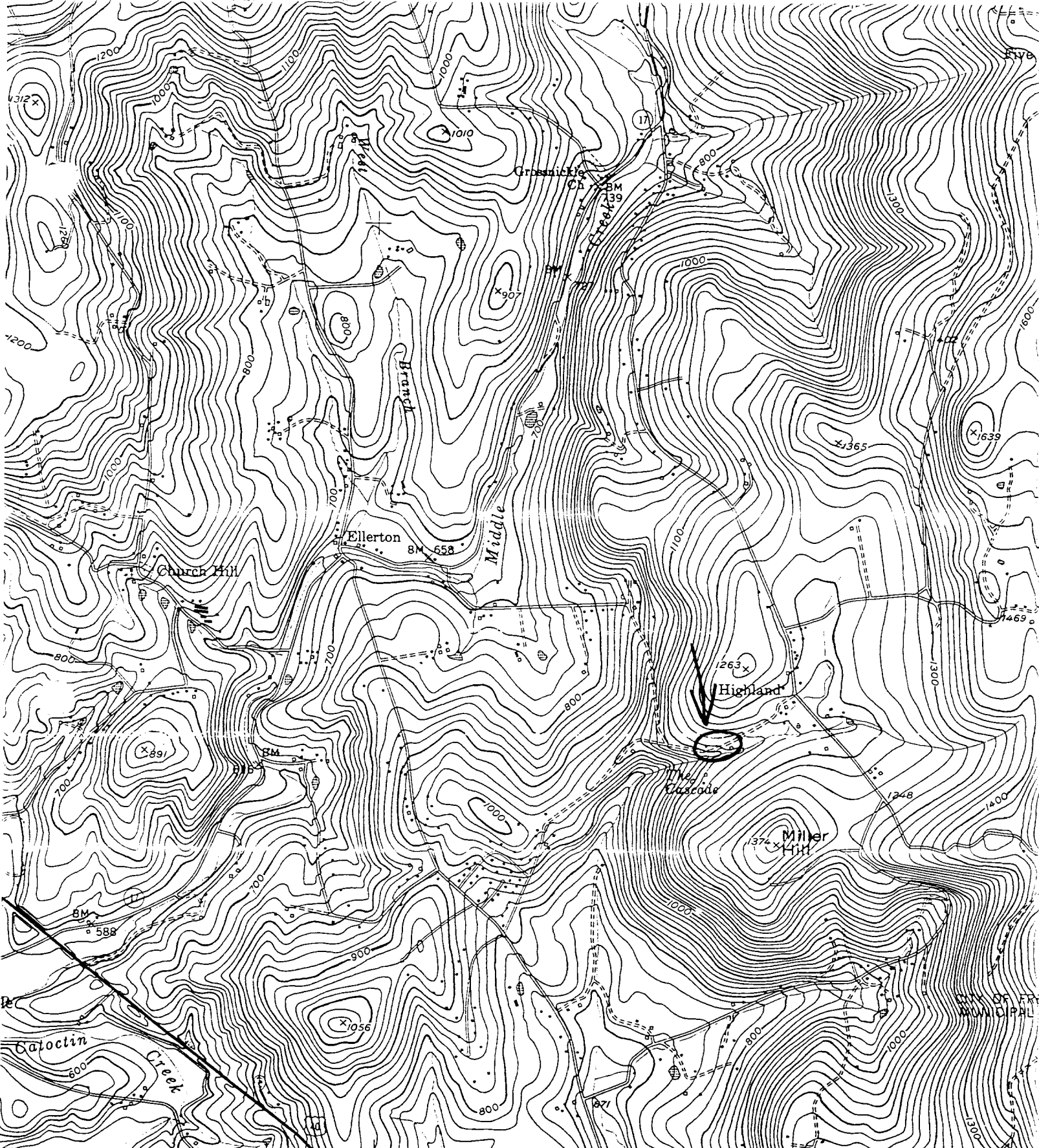


F-A-49
Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead
Frederick County
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick
County, 1858.

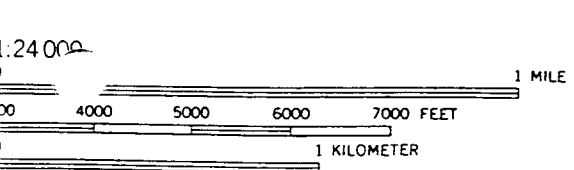
Scale 2 Inches to One Mile



F-4-49
Ramsburn-Gaver Farmstead
Frederick County
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick
County, 1873.

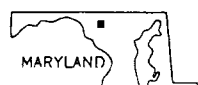


TOWN LINE 280 32'30" 282 283



INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 24000m.F.

F-4-10
Ramshorn-Gaver Farmstead
Frederick County
USGS Mversville, Md.
1-24000





F 4 49

Romberg - Gov. Fairstead

Friedrich County

Photo Inset Davis

March 1932

Neg. loc. Mid. SHP, Clearville PA

5-1/2 x 3-1/2

3



F. 4 49

Emerson, John F. Johnson

F. 4 49

Photo: Janet Davis

March 1992

Neo. 100 1000. 1000. 1000. 1000. 1000.

Neo. 100 1000. 1000. 1000. 1000. 1000.

1/2



E-11.99

Ramsburg - Gover Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

March 1971

Near top of Mt. Alto, Crownsville, Md.

Box 100

213



F 4-49

Romulus - (on) Farm 200'

Frederick County

Photo - Janet Davis

March 1991

1.50000. Md 3120 (1) on road 1/2

1.50000. Fireplace and 1/2

4/8



F-4-44

Ramsburg - Lower Farmstead
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

March 1992

Nea. loc. Md. Still. Grounds. 1/2
Second floor Hall 2nd floor

5/8



F. D. 6.1

Ramsbottom Green Farmstead

Fredricks County

Photo: Janet Davis

March 1992

Near loc. 2 Mid. SHPO (Gauseville Rd. 46)

Feed shed, chicken house, hay barn (L to R)

North elevation

6/8



F-4-49

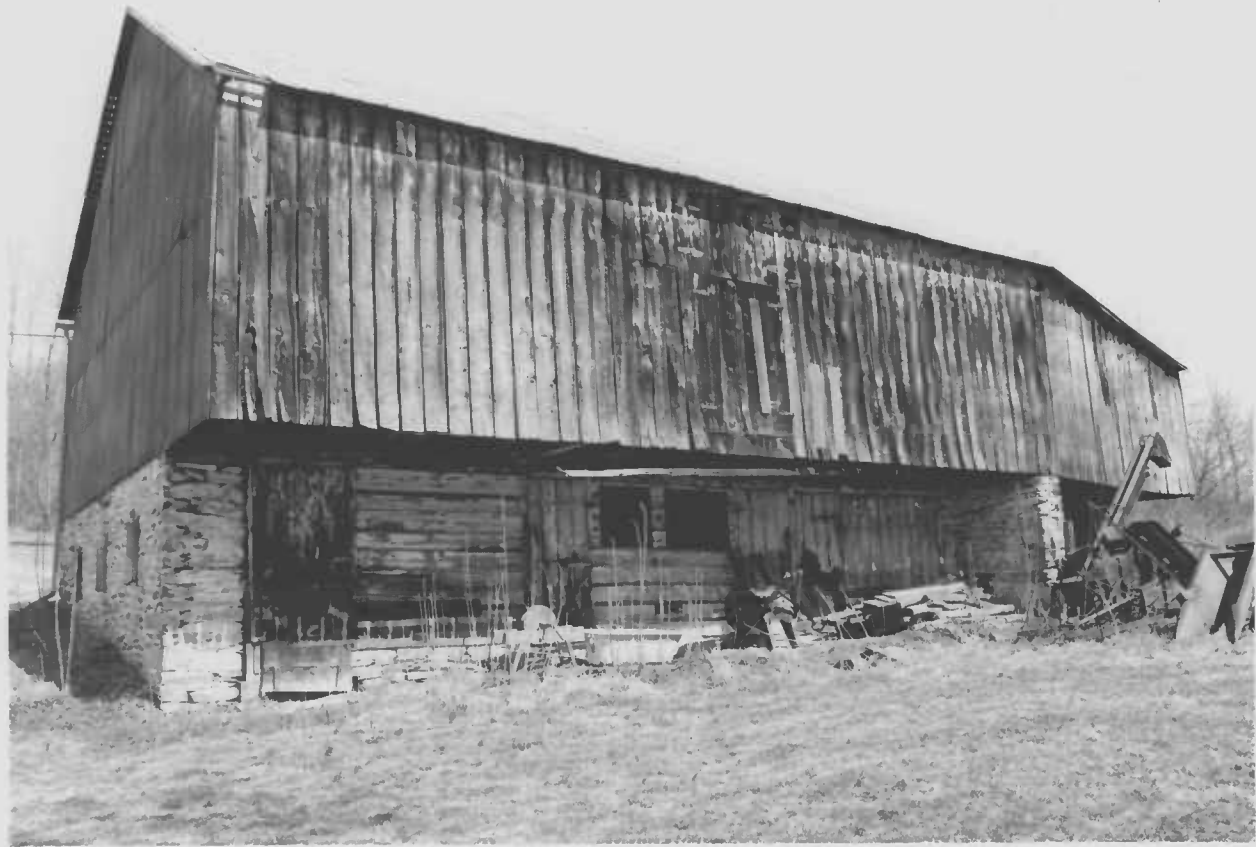
Ramsburg-Grove Farmstead
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

Mar 1, 1982

Near, Inc. Md. State University
Wagon shed, barn, and, wagon shed,
blacksmith shop (L to R), view from
west

7/8



F-4 49

Samuel J. Gower, Esq.

Federal County

Photo: T-104 E-102

March 1992

Aug. '00. 2nd. SHPO. Green 5/12/00

Boon. South elevation

5/0